

Lodi Unified School District sends out hundreds of layoff notices

By [Jennifer Bonnett](#)

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Hundreds of Lodi Unified School District teachers received preliminary pink slips in the mail last weekend, just as spring break was starting.

Notices included not only the 247 teaching positions approved by the school board in February, but also anyone who was hired since 2004. In sum, 442 teachers received notices by certified mail.

"Many people are stunned," teachers union president Sue Kenmotsu said, adding that she's not clear why so many were sent, but guessed it was to create a margin of error. "We're surprised at the number of layoff notices and who those people are."

A number of classified employees also received notices, but it's not clear how many. Close to 124 notices for classified workers were approved by the board Feb. 16.

Both Superintendent Cathy Nichols-Washer and Mike McKilligan, assistant superintendent of personnel, were out of the office and could not be reached.

The district was required to mail preliminary notices to meet the March 15 state-mandated deadline for employees who may lose their jobs. However, they could be reinstated if other reductions are found.

Last year, an infusion of federal stimulus money prevented widespread layoffs. District leaders don't expect that to happen this year.

Notices will not be final until May 15, allowing time for continued employee group bargaining.

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